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EXPERIMENTAL RABBIT FARM AT FONTANA, CALIFORNIA

Fontana, San Bernardino County, Calif., has been selected by Secretary Jardine as the location of the new experimental rabbit farm, which is soon to be established by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the National Rabbit Federation and the Fontana Farms Company. The Bureau of Biological Survey, under a cooperative agreement with these two organizations, will finance the operation of the farm, and plan and conduct the experimental work to be done for the improvement of the rabbit raising industry throughout the country.

D. Monroe Green, associate biologist, who has been engaged in rabbit investigation work in the division of fur resources of the Biological Survey for the past two years, has been appointed to direct the experiments on the new farm and will leave Washington late in August to take up his new assignment at Fontana.

The farm will include 5 acres of land, on which will be erected an administration building, a house for the caretaker, a feed storage shed, hutches, and other necessary buildings to care for a large number of breeding rabbits. The land, buildings and other equipment will be furnished by the local unit of the National Rabbit Federation and the Fontana Farms Company. The purpose of the experimental farm is to develop reliable information for rabbit breeders and for those contemplating raising rabbits as to the best methods of breeding, feeding, and housing these animals to produce both meat and fur of high quality. The cooperation of local and national organizations interested in the industry will be sought in conducting the experiments.

This will be the third experimental station to be operated under the direction of the Biological Survey, one being the Experimental Fur Farm at Saratoga Springs, N. Y.; and the other the Reindeer Experiment Station at Fairbanks, Alaska. California was selected for the rabbit farm because of the representative conditions there, Fontana being about 60 miles from Los Angeles, the center of the industry, and because more rabbits are at present being raised in California than in any other State. The results of the experiments at the new station, however, will be for the benefit of rabbit raisers throughout the country.

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